

REMARKS

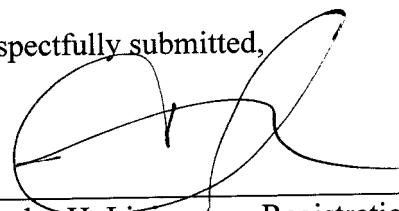
Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-8 and 17-20 stand rejected. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 9-16 and 21. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art found in the U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0114568 A1 of the instant application no. 10/722,914 (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,180,619 (Ferlitsch), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0040691 (Sakamoto). Claims 4 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ferlitsch and Sakamoto, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0063880 (Raney). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the reasons set forth hereafter.

Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended herein to recite similar subject matter to that of independent claim 9, which has been allowed. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 and 17-20 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention and all of the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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